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Message Text

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43
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

DRC-01 /109 W
---------- 122947
R 131700Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5440
INFO USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I AL PARIS 31852

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, TS, XI
SUBJECT: BOURGUIBA VISIT TO PARIS

1. DE WARREN, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MOROCCO, TUNISIA AND LIBYA, TOLD EMBOFFS THAT BOURGUIBA VISIT, WHICH WAS OF TUNISIAN INSPIRATION WAS IN ESSENCE A REPEAT OF THE CONVERSATIONS HELD DURING FONMIN JOBERT'S TRIP TO TUNIS LAST MONTH. BOURGUIBA WAS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE FRENCH IDEA FOR AN ARAB-EUROPEAN MEETING, PREFERABLY IN TUNIS, BUT LITTLE NEW GROUND WAS COVERED.

2. ASKING THAT HE NOT BE QUOTED, DE WARREN SAID BOURGUIBA WAS ESPECIALLY LONG-WINDED AS FAR AS CONTENT WAS CONCERNED, HE MIGHT EASILY HAVE SHORTENED HIS TWO AND A HALF HOUR CONVERSATION WITH POMPIDOU ON DECEMBER 12 TO FIFTEEN MIUTES. BOURGUIBA'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS THAT HE HAD HAD TELEPHONIC ASSURANCES FROM BOUMEDIENNE AND QUADDAFI THAT FRANCE WOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT OIL, AN ASSERTION THAT WAS QUICKLY DENIED A SONTATRACH, WAS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE. IT CAUSED HLARITY AMONG THE JOURNALISTS AND EMBARRASSMENT TO THE ALGERIANS AND LIBYANS WHO, DE WARREN ASSERTED, WILL KEEP UP THE LEVEL OF THEIR PETROLEUMSHIPMENTS TO FRANCE
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BUT WHO SURELY AUTHORIZED NO ONE TO SAY SO PUBLICLY.

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DE WARREN NOTED SADLY THAT AS OURGUIBA'S PHYSICAL CONDITION HAS IMPROVED IN RECENT MONTHS, HIS MIND HAS SEEMED TO DETERIORATE.

3. COMMENT: THE TWO GOVERNMENT'S SHARED INTEREST IN ARRANGING A EUROPEAN-ARAB GATHERING HAS PROBABLY ADDED TO THE CURRENT WARMTH IN FRANCO-UNISIAN RELATIONS. BOURGUIBA'S PERFORMANCE IN PARIS AS DESCRIBED BY DE WARREN AND OTHERS, HOWEVER, HAS NOT HELPED THE TUNISIAN PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL STOCK LOCALLY.
STONE

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